stands at 103.74 million standard cubic meter per day (MMSCMD). This includes 19.42 MMSCMD for Uttar Pradesh and 17.60 MMSCMD for Maharashtra as under:

(Fig. In MMSCMD)

Sector	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra
Fertilizer	8.80	5.70
Power	5.36	6.00
Sponge Iron	0.35	2.65
Others	2.28	2.80
Internal use/shrinkage	2.63	0.45
TOTAL:	19.42	17.60

Atomic power reactors

*309. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in some developed countries like the USA and Canada and even in Russia, there is a trend to abandon use of atomic power reactors and shift to conventional sources of energy.

(b) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Electricity generation by nuclear energy in the world increased by about 26% during the period 1990—99 as per information available. Although there has been slowing down in nuclear power capacity addition in U.S.A. Canada and Western Europe, this is to be looked at in the context of their self sufficiency in meeting the electricity demand with a high level of per capita electricity consumption. The nuclear capacity addition is now centered in Asia.

(b) and (c) A study, based on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) documents indicates that between the period 1990 to 1997, 48 nuclear power reactors were connected to the grid and as of the end of 1998, 36 nuclear power reactors with a net capacity of 27536 MWe are reported to be under construction. Further, the shares of nuclear power in 1998 are significant in

many countries, like France 75.8% Lithuania 77.2% Korea 41.4% Belgium 55.2% etc. based on IAFA study.

Delegation of SSI Enterpreneurs to USA

*310. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether she lead a delegation of SSI entrepreneurs to USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion was held with the Government of USA and other concerned institutions; and

(d) whether any MOU was signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MOS (SSI & ARI) led an official-cum-business delegation of SMEs to USA from 13th February to 18th February, 2000. She was accompanied by two Officers and a nineteen member team from the C.I.I.

(c) Discussion were held with the US Small Business Adminstrator. Seminars on India jointly organized by USIBC and CII on business opportunities in India were also attended.

(d) No, Sir.

Blue Book for LPG Consumers

†*311. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issuance of Blue Book and its acceptance by the consumers is mandatory at the time of giving new LPG connection;

(b) whether in transfer cases, the gas agencies can refuse connections to the consumers in the absence of Blue Book inspite of submitting original Transfer Voucher issued by the previous agency;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that Jamshedpur Gas Service,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.